Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W

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R 101134Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1004 INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PEPR, CD, GB

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MALLOUM'S VISIT TO GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 1082 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: MALLOUM'S BRIEF VISIT TO LIBREVILLE MAY 5 AND 6 PRODUCED TWO BRIEF AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCES; THREE ANNOUNCED WORKING SESSIONS BETWEEN BONGO AND MALLOUM AND HINT THAT MALLOUM MAY HAVE MET WITH UNNAMED REBEL LEADER. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAIRMAN OF CHADIAN SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, FELIX MALLOUM, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE AND MINISTER OF TOURISM BACHAR VISITED LIBREVILLE FROM MORNING MAY 5 TO AFTERNOON MAY 6. DURING BRIEF ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE MALLOUM STATED HE WAS WORKING TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN FACE OF FROLINAT WHICH "WANTS THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS." MALLOUM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER, GAVE ONLY LACONIC REPLIES TO MOST QUESTIONS, REFUSED TO COMMENT ON CHAD-LIBYA RELATIONS OR ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDDLE EAST POSITION.

3. FOLLOWING THREE "FRATERNAL AND CORDIAL" WORKING SESSIONS WITH PRESIDENT BONGO, MALLOUM DECLARED THAT IF FROLINAT CONTINUED ITS SHIILY/SHALLYING, HE WOULD ASK

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI NOT OR ORGANIZE THE JUNE MEETING AGREED TO IN TRIPOLI AND TURN THE PROBLEM OVER TO OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO.

4. DURING MAY 8 NEWS CONFERENCE WHEN BONGO WAS ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT MALLOUM MAY HAVE MET ONE OR MORE REBEL LEASDERS DURING HIS STAY IN LIBREVILLE, HE REFUSED TO COMMENT. BONGO SAID THAT WHILE MALLOUM WAS STAYING IN GABONESE GUEST QUARTERS HE WAS NOT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND WAS FREE TO INVITE AROUND ANYONE HE WISHED. HE LATER TOLD AMBASSADOR MUCH SAME THING, ADDING THAT IF MALLOUM MET WITH NANY REBEL LEADER, HE, BONGO, WAS UNAWARE OF IT. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 10 may 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV01111
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780200-0323 Format: TEL From: LIBREVILLE

Handling Restrictions: Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780574/aaaacleq.tel

Line Count: 75 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d55030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY Reference: 78 LIBREVILLE 1082

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 18 apr 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2737783 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRESIDENT MALLOUM\'S VISIT TO GABON TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, ECIN, CD, GB, (MALLOUM, FELIX)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d55030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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